

## Section 5. Research Findings

### 3. Seriousness of Human Needs on Nantucket

Analysis of responses to the Nantucket Community Survey – 2006 shows that the most serious household issues embody the following two common themes; 1) not having enough money to pay for food, essential medical/dental services and recreation, and 2) having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression in the household,. (See also, Appendix 2.A)

#### **Not Having Enough Money to Pay For Essential Medical/Dental Services, and Recreation:**

Specific survey responses included having a problem with; *“paying for or getting dental insurance,” “not having enough money to pay the doctor, the dentist, or to buy prescription medications,” “not able to afford recreational activities,” and “not enough money to pay for housing.”*

**Having a Lot of Anxiety, Stress, or Depression in The Household:** Specific survey responses included having; *“a lot of anxiety or stress in the household,” and “a lot of depression in the household.”*

Figure 5.3.1 shows the top twelve most serious household issues reported by Islanders.

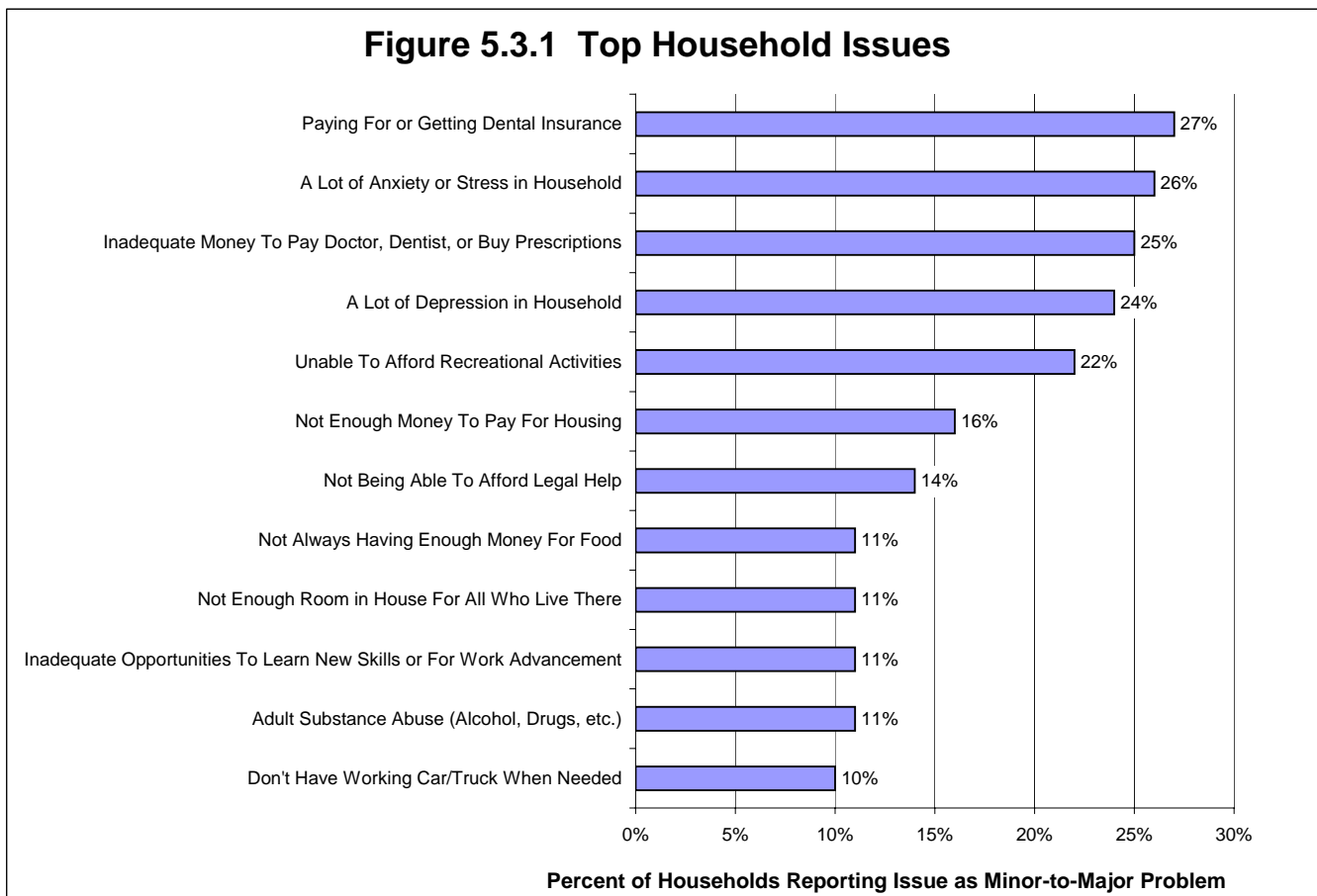


Figure 5.3.2 shows the ten most serious barriers to accessing human services as reported by Islanders who sought help for problems in their household. (See also, Appendix 2.A)

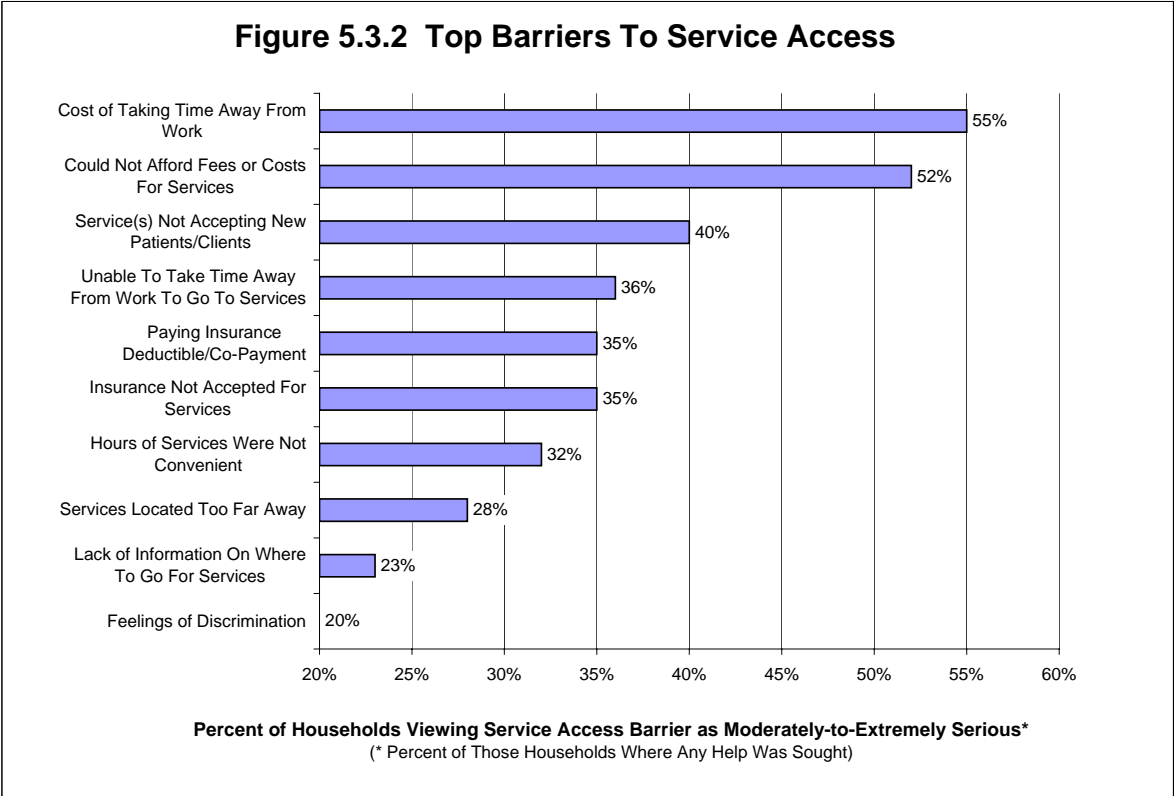


Figure 5.3.3 shows the twelve most serious household issues as reported by Islanders from our most needy households (See also, Appendix 2.A)

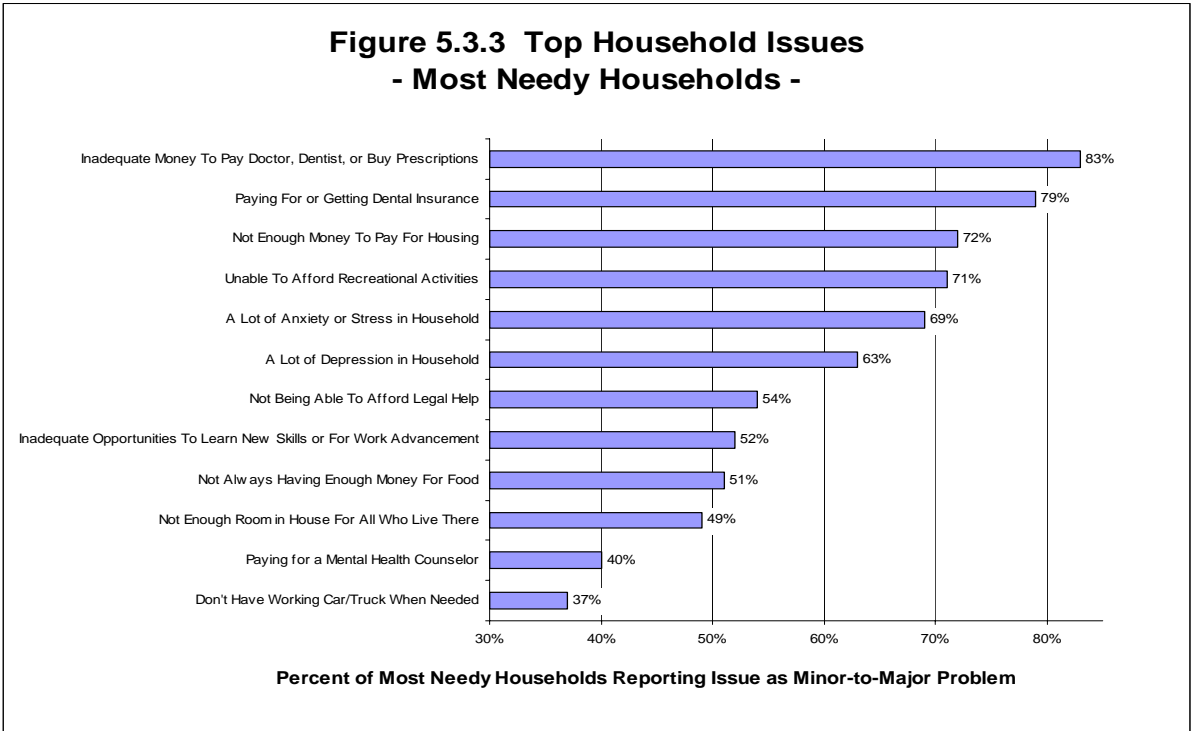
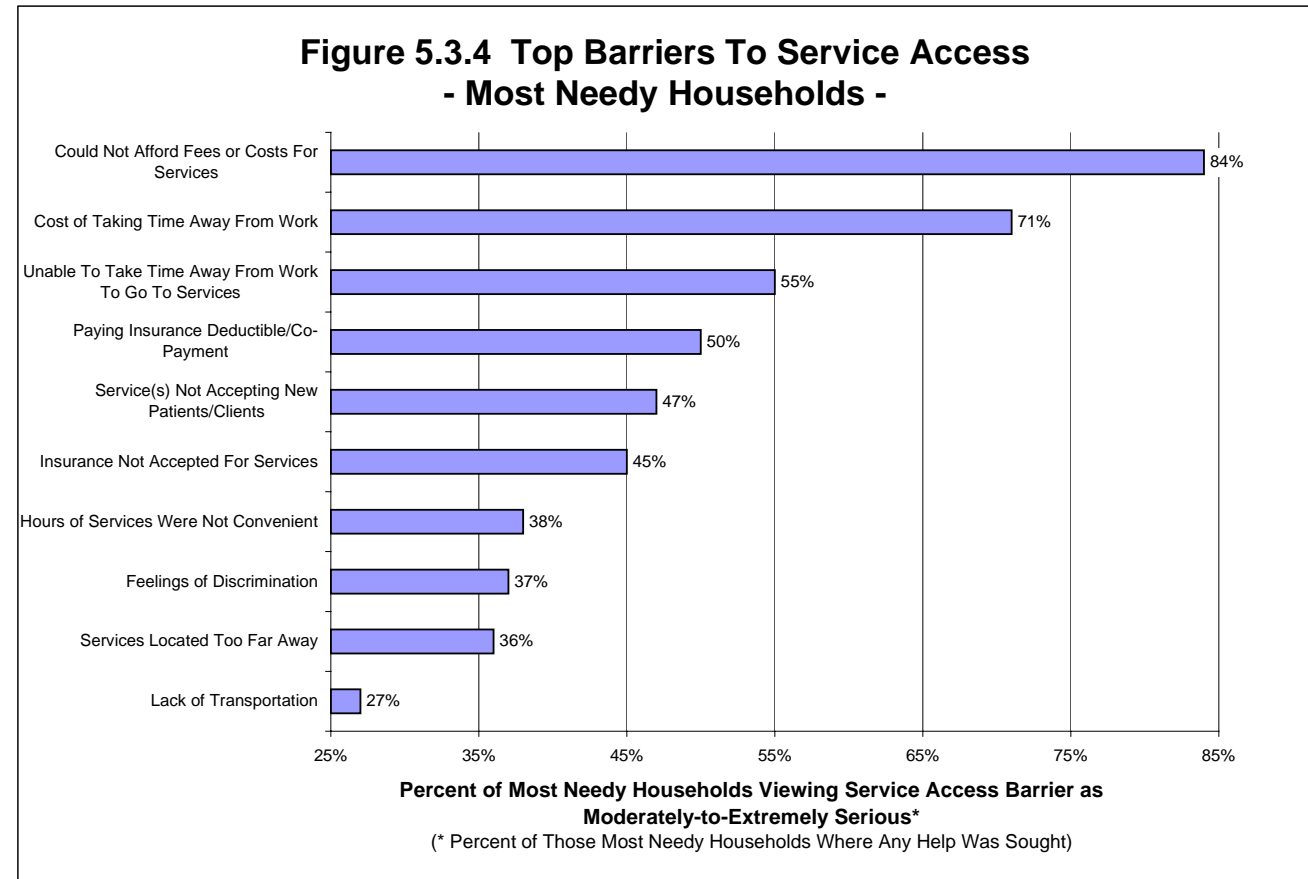


Figure 5.3.4 shows the ten most serious barriers to as reported by respondents from our most needy households where help was sought for problems in their household. (See also, Appendix 2.A)



## Responses to Open-Ended Questions on the Nantucket Community Survey - 2006: Hand-Written Comments By Respondents - Concerning Their Feelings About Island Cod, About Islanders, and Their Ideas and Suggestions For Making Nantucket a Better Place In Which to Live

Nantucket Community Survey - 2006 respondents were invited to write in their likes and dislikes about Nantucket, about Islanders, and their ideas and suggestions for making Nantucket a better place to live. Four questions were posed as follows:

*“A. What do you especially like about Nantucket?”*

*“B. What do you especially like about the PEOPLE of Nantucket?”*

*“C. What do you dislike most about Nantucket?”*

*“D. Please write in your ideas or suggestions for making Nantucket a better place to live.”*

Note: Appendix 3 contains details of hand-written comments for each of the four questions and transcripts of comments relating to the most common topic areas.

More than one-half (54%) of all respondents took the time to write in a response to one or more of these questions. While the topics of these responses of course varied considerably, a number of common themes were voiced in response to each of the four questions. Those commenting wrote-in an average of 3.3 comments each, yielding a total of over 1,200 separate sets of comments. Also, six-in-ten (59%) of respondents from our most needy households took the time to write in one or more comment. On average, these respondents wrote-in 2.8 comments each, yielding a total of almost two hundred sets of comments.

### Responses to Question A

The top responses relating to what all survey respondents, “*especially like about Nantucket*” are summarized in Table 5.3.5. (See also, Appendix 3)

**Table 5.3.5 Ranked List of Topics From ALL Responses to Question A**

Rank	Topic Category	Number of Responses With This Topic	Percentage of All Responses To Question A*
		(N=736)	
1	Natural Beauty/Scenic Landscape	94**	13%
2	Proximity to Ocean/Seashore	91**	12%
3	Sense of Community	82**	11%
4	Character of the People/Diversity	71**	10%
5	Safety/Low Crime Rate	56	8%
6	Quaintness/Small-Town Character	51	7%
6 (tie)	Open Space/Natural Environment	51	7%
7	Peacefulness	39	5%
8	Availability of Activities/Things To Do	38	5%
9	Child/Family Environment	31	4%
10	Nantucket History/Historic Preservation	26	4%
11	Clean Air/Clean Beaches	23	3%
12	Moderate Climate/Seasons	20	3%
13	Lifestyle/Ambience	19	3%
14	Employment/Business Opportunities	16	2%
15 (tie)	Living on an Island	10	1%
15 (tie)	Healthcare Services/Facilities	10	1%
16	Schools/Education	8	1%

\* Column does not sum to 100% since many respondents included more than one topic in their response.

\*\* Appendix 3 contains a separate report containing transcripts of key hand-written responses. (tie) = tied, same rank.

## Most Needy Households

The top responses from our most needy households relating to what these respondents, *“especially like about Nantucket”* are summarized in Table 5.3.6. (See also, Appendix 3)

**Table 5.3.6 Ranked List of Topics From Most Needy Household Responses to Question A**

Rank	Topic Category	Number of Most Needy Responses With This Topic	Percentage of Most Needy Responses To Question A*
		(N=112)	
1	Sense of Community	19**	17%
2	Proximity to Ocean/Seashore	18**	16%
3	Quaintness/Small-Town Character	12	11%
4	Character of the People/Diversity	11**	10%
5	Natural Beauty/Scenic Landscape	10**	9%
6	Open Space/Natural Environment	7	6%
7	Availability of Activities/Things To Do	6	5%
8	Nantucket History/Historic Preservation	5	5%
9 (tie)	Safety/Low Crime Rate	4	4%
9 (tie)	Child/Family Environment	4	4%
9 (tie)	Clean Air/Clean Beaches	4	4%
10 (tie)	Lifestyle/Ambience	3	3%
10 (tie)	Employment/Business Opportunities	3	3%
11 (tie)	Peacefulness	2	2%
11 (tie)	Healthcare Services/Facilities	2	2%
12 (tie)	Moderate Climate/Seasons	1	1%
12 (tie)	Schools/Education	1	1%
13	Living on an Island	0	0%

\* Column does not sum to 100% since many respondents included more than one topic in their response.

\*\* Appendix 3 contains a separate report containing transcripts of key hand-written responses. (tie) = tied, same rank.

## Responses to Question B

The top responses relating to what all survey respondents, “*especially like about the people of Nantucket*” are summarized in Table 5.3.7. (See also, Appendix 3)

**Table 5.3.7 Ranked List of Topics From ALL Responses to Question B**

Rank	Topic Category	Number of Responses With This Topic	Percentage of All Responses To Question B*
		(N=483)	
1	Character/Values	135**	28%
2	Friendliness	112**	23%
3	Sense of Community	63	13%
4	Helpfulness	45	9%
5	Generosity/Mutual Support	41	9%
6	Caring	35	7%
7	Diversity/Mix of People	23	5%
8	Niceness	10	2%
9	Courtesy	9	2%
10 (tie)	Healthiness/Health Conscious	5	1%
10 (tie)	Relaxed Lifestyle	5	1%

\* Column does not sum to 100% since many respondents included more than one topic in their response.

\*\* Appendix 3 contains a separate report containing transcripts of key hand-written responses. (tie) = tied, same rank.

## Most Needy Households

The top responses from our most needy households relating to what this group of respondents, “*especially like about the people of Nantucket*” are summarized in Table 5.3.8. (See also, Appendix 3)

**Table 5.3.8 Ranked List of Topics From Most Needy Household Responses to Question B**

Rank	Topic Category	Number of Most Needy Responses With This Topic	Percentage of Most Needy Responses To Question B*
		(N=67)	
1	Character/Values	21**	31%
2	Friendliness	11**	16%
3	Sense of Community	9	13%
4	Generosity/Mutual Support	8	12%
5	Helpfulness	5	8%
6 (tie)	Caring	4	6%
6 (tie)	Diversity/Mix of People	4	6%
7	Niceness	2	3%
8 (tie)	Courtesy	1	2%
8 (tie)	Healthiness/Health Conscious	1	2%
8 (tie)	Relaxed Lifestyle	1	2%

\* Column does not sum to 100% since many respondents included more than one topic in their response.

\*\* Appendix 3 contains a separate report containing transcripts of key hand-written responses. (tie) = tied, same rank.

## Responses to Question C

The top ten responses relating to what respondents, “*dislike most about Nantucket*” are summarized in Table 5.3.9. (See also, Appendix 3)

**Table 5.3.9 Ranked List of Topics From ALL Responses to Question C**

Rank	Topic Category	Number of Responses With This Topic	Percentage of All Responses To Question C*
		(N=632)	
1	High Prices & Lack of Affordability	99**	16%
2	Traffic/Parking/Transportation	74**	12%
3	Attitudes of The People	70**	11%
4	Growth & Development	60**	10%
5 (tie)	Housing/Real Estate Situation	59	9%
5 (tie)	Government/Town Services/Police	59	9%
6	Summer Season/Tourists	56	9%
7 (tie)	Business/Chain Stores/Fast Food	34	5%
7 (tie)	Realities of Island Living	34	5%
8	Foreign Workers/Immigrants/Non-English Speakers/Illegals	25	4%
9	Pressures on Young People & Families	23	4%
10	Employment Situation	15	2%
11	Weather Conditions/Seasonality	11	2%
12	Healthcare Resources	7	1%
13	Quality of Life	6	1%

\* Column does not sum to 100% since many respondents included more than one topic in their response.

\*\* Appendix 3 contains a separate report containing transcripts of key hand-written responses. (tie) = tied, same rank.

## Most Needy Households

The top responses from our most needy households relating to what these respondents, “*dislike most about Nantucket*” are summarized in Table 5.3.10. (See also, Appendix 3)

**Table 5.3.10 Ranked List of Topics From Most Needy Household Responses to Question C**

Rank	Topic Category	Number of Most Needy Responses With This Topic	Percentage of Most Needy Responses To Question C*
		(N=100)	
1	High Prices & Lack of Affordability	18**	18%
2	Housing/Real Estate Situation	14	14%
3	Attitudes of The People	13**	13%
4	Government/Town Services/Police	12	12%
5	Traffic/Parking/Transportation	10**	10%
6	Pressures on Young People & Families	8	8%
7	Summer Season/Tourists	6	6%
8	Growth & Development	5**	5%
9 (tie)	Business/Chain Stores/Fast Food	4	4%
9 (tie)	Realities of Island Living	4	4%
10	Foreign Workers/Immigrants/Non-English Speakers/Illegals	3	3%
11 (tie)	Weather Conditions/Seasonality	1	1%
11 (tie)	Healthcare Resources	1	1%
11 (tie)	Quality of Life	1	1%
12	Employment Situation	0	0%

\* Column does not sum to 100% since many respondents included more than one topic in their response.

\*\* Appendix 3 contains a separate report containing transcripts of key hand-written responses. (tie) = tied, same rank.

## Responses to Question D

The top responses relating to survey respondent's own, "*ideas or suggestions for making Nantucket a **better place to live***" are summarized in Table 5.3.11. (See also, Appendix 3)

**Table 5.3.11 Ranked List of Topics From ALL Responses to Question D**

Rank	Topic Category	Number of Responses With This Topic	Percentage of All Responses To Question D*
		(N=382)	
1	Encourage Local Government Action	85**	22%
2	Reduce Car/Truck Traffic	59**	15%
3	Increase Affordable Housing	52**	14%
4	Develop/Strengthen Community Organizations/Activities	31	8%
5	Enhance Public Transportation Services	30	8%
6	Slowdown/Control Growth & Development	27	7%
7	Restructure Town Government	22	6%
8	Coordinate With/Support Local Businesses	21	6%
9	Support Young Families	15	4%
10	Improve Healthcare Resources	13	3%
11	Increase Land Conservation	11	3%
12	Improve Local Shopping Opportunities	10	3%
13	Enforce Immigration Laws	6	2%

\* Column does not sum to 100% since many respondents included more than one topic in their response.

\*\* Appendix 3 contains a separate report containing transcripts of key hand-written responses. (tie) = tied, same rank.

## Most Needy Households

The top responses from our most needy households relating to these respondent's own, "*ideas or suggestions for making Nantucket a **better place to live***" are summarized in Table 5.3.12. (See also, Appendix 3)

**Table 5.3.12 Ranked List of Topics From Most Needy Household Responses to Question D**

Rank	Topic Category	Number of Responses With This Topic	Percentage of All Responses To Question D*
		(N=57)	
1	Encourage Local Government Action	17**	30%
2	Increase Affordable Housing	11**	19%
3	Develop/Strengthen Community Organizations/Activities	6	11%
3	Enhance Public Transportation Services	6	11%
4	Reduce Car/Truck Traffic	4**	7%
5 (tie)	Slowdown/Control Growth & Development	2	4%
5 (tie)	Coordinate With/Support Local Businesses	2	4%
5 (tie)	Support Young Families	2	4%
5 (tie)	Improve Healthcare Resources	2	4%
5 (tie)	Increase Land Conservation	2	4%
5 (tie)	Improve Local Shopping Opportunities	2	4%
6	Enforce Immigration Laws	1	2%
7	Restructure Town Government	0	0%

\* Column does not sum to 100% since many respondents included more than one topic in their response.

\*\* Appendix 3 contains a separate report containing transcripts of key hand-written responses. (tie) = tied, same rank.



**Note on Open-Ended Question Responses:**

All hand-written comments have been transcribed and organized by topic category. Appendix 3 (a separate monograph report) contains transcripts of many, but not all, of these comments--approximately one-half of the transcribed comments are included in Appendix 3. The entire set of categorized transcripts consists of over two-hundred printed pages, and is thus impractical to include in the Appendix. The remainder of the comments are available on the CD-ROM version of this Report. On the CD-ROM we are publishing (with names and identification omitted) all of the comments that we believe contribute something of value to our research study.

